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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

New Partnership for Africa's Development: Progress in implementation and international support

New Partnership for Africa's Development: modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/62/L.29

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/62/L.29, the General Assembly would decide to hold a high-level meeting on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward" on 22 September 2008, prior to the general debate of the sixty-third session of the Assembly. In operative paragraphs 2 to 13, it would also decide on the modalities, format and organization of and participation in the meeting.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 14 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to submit to the meeting a comprehensive report, with recommendations, on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward" in cooperation with relevant development agencies of the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and other relevant regional and international financial and trade institutions, two months before the meeting, as well as a note on the organizational aspects of the meeting.

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II. Relationship of the requests to the programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009

3. The activities referred to above relate to programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, subprogramme 1, Coordination of global advocacy of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, of programme 9, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and subprogramme 4, Support services, of programme 24, Management and support services, of the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009.[1] They fall under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, section 11, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and section 28D, Office of Central Support Services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

III. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

4. Pursuant to operative paragraphs 1 to 13 of draft resolution A/62/L.29, the high-level meeting would be composed of four plenary meetings understood to be part of the work of the General Assembly, with the comprehensive report constituting the required documentation.

5. With regard to the request contained in operative paragraph 14 of the draft resolution, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa would be in charge of the preparation of the comprehensive report, with recommendations, on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward", in cooperation with relevant development agencies of the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and other relevant regional and international financial and trade institutions, two months before the meeting, as well as a note on the organizational aspects of the meeting.

IV. Modification of the programme of work and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

6. In order to reflect the provisions of the draft resolution, the following modification would need to be made to the narrative of section 11, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/62/6 (Sect. 11)):

Outputs

At the end of paragraph 11.15 (a) (i) b, the following words would be added: **"comprehensive report on 'Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward' (1)"**.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first session, Supplement No. 6* (A/61/6/Rev.1).

V. Estimated resource requirements

7. It is understood that the high-level meeting would be part of the work of the General Assembly and the comprehensive report would be part of the normal documentation workload for the Assembly. Therefore, there would be no additional requirements for conference services.

8. The estimated costs for the development of the comprehensive report, with recommendations, on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward" would amount to $86,000.

9. These resources would cover consultancy services required for the preparation of the comprehensive report, including an amount of $54,000 for consultancy fees, estimated on a basis of six work-months at $9,000 per month, as well as a provision of $32,000 for related travel for consultations with relevant stakeholders and for collecting necessary information.

VI. Potential for absorption

10. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/62/L.29, no additional conference-servicing resources would be required for the four plenary meetings of the Assembly and documentation indicated above, on the understanding that these were part of the normal work of the Assembly for which resources had already been budgeted throughout the year according to its entitlements under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and section 28D, Office of Central Support Services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

11. No provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 for the activities requested under draft resolution A/62/L.29 related to section 11, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. At the current stage, it is not possible to identify activities within section 11 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium.

VII. Contingency fund

12. It will be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditure derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditures were proposed that exceeded the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned would be implemented only through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or the modification of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities would have to be deferred to a later biennium.

VIII. Action required of the General Assembly

13. **Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/62/L.29, additional expenditures amounting to $86,000 would be required under section 11, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. This would represent a charge against the contingency fund.**